

WORKERS of the WORLD UNITE THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

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The Passing Show.

While the worker bleeds, privilege feeds.

The war is killing off millions of warriors. War-drunks will be scarce after it is over.

There is a wide difference between nationalism and rationalism in Europe just now.

When the workers all unite there'll be some difference in the fight.

The recent pronouncement of N.S.W. Chief Secretary, in favor of free speech, seems to have had the effect of stimulating the police to prevent it. They are more active than ever.

The power of the capitalist is above that of politicians, priests and policemen. They all dance to the tune he calls.

The capitalist is determined that if you will not wage war for him, you shall not wage the class-war against him.

The class war is such a hideous fact that it cannot be hidden by the smoke from big guns.

The Socialist is the world's teacher. He is teaching mankind that war is futile and unnecessary.

Queensland labor papers give Labor-leader Ryan credit for a brilliant speech, which he recently delivered. The speech contained no reference to the incarceration of Thompson in Goodna Lunatic Asylum. It was noteworthy in this respect.

If the workers who produce all good things should not have the best of everything, who should?

The parasite class here, like the same class in Europe, believes the workers should be satisfied with a hovel and a pittance, while they have hoards and palaces. How long will the workers agree with them?

The picture shows are giving the masses some idea of how the rich live and not in wealth, which the masses produce. This creates new ideals and aspirations that must eventually produce social influences of vast importance. The poor are beginning to see how the rich live.

Capitalists know that free speech is a danger to them, and they therefore organize to prevent it.

The capitalists keep the army and navy in order that the army and navy may be used to force the workers to divide up with the capitalists.

"Where the palaces are splendid there the fields will be waste and the granaries empty."—Chinese proverb.

"There has been criticism in certain directions because of an inability to go on with our programme."—W. A. Holman. There has been also some criticism because of the Government's willingness to go on with the programme of its opponents.

"At this moment I see no reason why, if things continue as they are, we should not begin early next month, when Parliament will re-assemble, to carry out our programme."—W. A. Holman. Always next session.

"Man," as Pope says, "never is, but always to be blest."

"Next month we will give you some legislation that will be deeply gratifying to the movement."—N.S.W. Premier Holman. We have heard that tale before somewhere.

"At a meeting of the Executive, the Premier, for several hours, set forth the cablegrams from the Agent-General and others, dealing with the financial situation. The most vitriolic critic of the Conference would have come to no other conclusion than to have supported the resolution draft-



The Advent of Spring in Europe.

—From Sydney Daily Telegraph.

ed and moved by Mr. J. C. Watson, agreeing to the proposals."—Mr. Meagher, Chairman N.S.W. P.L.L. Conference on the Norton-Griffiths' agreement. The cablegrams from the Agent-General and others appear to have made it clear that the Government was stumped and at the mercy of the financiers.

"I don't take my orders from any Parliamentary party or caucus. You are makers of the Constitution—we are the servants who carry out your legislative desires. We want no political mandarins or bosses."—Mr. Meagher, to P.L.L. Delegates' Conference, after just admitting that the State's financial affairs are dominated from London. What a leg-puller he is!

"The man from the bush humpy beyond Bourke is as good at Conference as the brainiest man present."—Mr. Meagher. And neither amounts to a row of pins, while the economic bosses reside in London and pull the strings which make the Government dance.

"What is good enough for the British Government is good enough for my Ministry."—Prime Minister Fisher. What was good enough for our grandfathers is good enough for some so-called Laborites.

"The Labor Government has had a pretty unholy fight and it is lamentable that there should be leagues—only a few out of hundreds—passing votes of censure and enabling the Liberal press to devote much space to its criticism of the Ministry."—Mr. Meagher. You cannot fool all the workers all the time.

"It is because there are no unemployed that we are able to maintain the old union rates."—N.S.W. Labor Premier Holman. Can he be believed?

Caste and racial hatred were in evidence at the N.S.W. P.L.L. Conference last Saturday, when one delegate called another a "Dago." The President said he would certainly prevent any man using an insult of that kind.

The Russian Ministry of Finance is organising an international competition, with prizes ranging up to £3000, for methods of rendering methylated spirits and other harmful liquors absolutely undrinkable. A second competition is being arranged with prizes of value up to £7500 for new or improved methods of utilising spirit for combustible and other purposes.

The reason for the competition is not far to seek. The drinking of methylated spirit lowers the profit producing and fighting value of the slaves, and the stoppage of its drinking lowers the revenue from its sale.

There was a beautiful and touching story in the "Westminster Gazette" recently of four Highland infantrymen, who took refuge in an empty loft in a Belgian village and improvised a Sunday service of their own. They made such a terrible list of the hymn, "Yea, though I walk in death's vale," that the Germans, after opening the door, fled in dismay and left the men to get back to the British lines. There's a moral in the story somewhere, probably in the fact that no German can stand Scotch cowersers' singing.

"We know that men, women and children went in their thousands to view the display at the Sydney Show Ground, and yet did not kneel once this day to say to their God, 'Thank you.' The Show cost them only one shilling, but their salvation cost them their God, His life, flesh and blood."—Father Bede. The old story is losing its charm.

"At the Royal Show luncheon, Sydney, Mr. Fisher, Commonwealth Prime Minister, said that if voluntary service failed—of which there was no sign—the Government would take further action."—S.M. Herald. In the direction of compulsion?

"There was a difference between falsely swearing a man into jail and falsely swear-ink a man out of jail."—N.S.W. Chief Justice. Yes, Sir William, and the law winks at the one, but punishes the other severely.

"It would be well for us if we were able to take a roseate view of the war."—W. M. Hughes, Federal Attorney-General. Only madmen could take a roseate view of war. War is international insanity.

There was a fair amount of bag-snatching and purse-stealing during show week in Sydney, and the police are of the opinion that most of it was performed by gangs of criminals who came over from Melbourne for the purpose. Melbourne, according to Sydney police, has the most dangerous and numerous lot of criminals of any State in the Commonwealth, and living, as Sydney people do, within such easy distance of Victoria's capital, it is almost impossible to keep this city free from criminality. Our daily press does its best to assist the police by warning their innocent readers against

Victorians, but the rogues get here and rob and ruin the fair fame of Sydney in spite of press, parliament or police. There was some talk once of putting a heavy tax on all Victorians entering N.S.W., but nothing came of it, and now they enjoy a liberty of entry that is not enjoyed by other foreigners. Our magistrates make it hot for 'em when they are caught, but their powers are limited. What they want is a law to enable them to impound all Victorians as habitual criminals.

Those who doubt that the world moves will be confounded to learn that N.S.W. Premier Holman has promised to send an ex-stoutish promotor into the "Upper House."

The war is bringing hardships even to shareholders in gun-making firms. Krupp's have only declared a dividend of 12 per cent. against 14 per cent. for the previous year. The decrease was said to be owing to the unfortunate necessity of watering the stock.

Vienna papers state that many of the wounded soldiers, who returned from the war, positively refused to return to the front, owing to the fact that they had become quite insane. Queer kind of insanity that.

Rev. J. Green, a Methodist parson, writing to the Sydney press from Egypt, contends that the 30,000 Australian troops in Egypt are a credit to Australia and have impressed the people of Cairo with their good behaviour, morality, etc. If what the reverend warrior says is true, it is the first time on record that girls and property were free from molestation when an army of such a size was near.

Speaking at the P.L.L. Conference last Saturday, Premier Holman said, "Every section of the press was united against the administration, including the Socialist papers and the 'Worker.' They all united in suppressing the Government view or minimising what the Government had accomplished." This is scarcely true of the 'International,' which has always given prominence to what the Government has done for the capitalists.

Speaking at the P.L.L. Conference, W. M. Hughes said the Labor movement in Australia "had reached a stage of efflorescence not attained elsewhere." It preached a gospel of economic salvation, and was based on a dual foundation, political and industrial. He had always done all he could to weld together these two foundations. For many years he preached compulsory military training of the workers, which has split the workers in a hopeless fashion.

"The greatest enemy of the workers all over the world is primarily drink, and, secondly, gambling."—W. A. Holman, Premier of N.S.W. While the Labor Party believes that the difference between it and the Socialist Party is much wider than that between the Labor Party and the Liberals.

"So you have no references?" said Farmer Giles to the boy who offered himself as a farm hand. "How's that?"

"Well," said the youngster, "it's like this, I left without asking for one. You see, when I had been there a month, a cow died, and we had to eat it. Then a pig died, and we had to eat that. And two days ago the old woman died, and I cleared."

When J. R. Wilson appeared on Wednesday at the Sydney Central Police Court in to a summons for street speaking, he was politely informed that the police wanted a remand for a week. A Minister had asked that the case be held over for a week. Does this mean only until after the Labor Conference has ceased to sit?

"Should Australian girls be brought under some system of compulsory training to fit them to share in the defence of the Country in time of War?" This is a question asked in a recent number of Everybody's Journal. Summed up, the notables came to the conclusion that compulsory drill would be inadvisable but some form of compulsory domestic Science highly desirable. The leizured writers were evidently thinking of the cook when they wrote on the subject.

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It is of great importance that the citizens of any State have a wide degree of individual liberty and that they be secure against an infringement of their liberties, not only on the part of other individuals, but also of the Government. The degree of liberty and security a people enjoy profoundly influence their progress.—Schenger.

Mr. Holman and Free Speech.

At the P.L.L. Conference in Sydney, a communication from the Australasian Socialist Party was read on Monday last, asking if that body would permit delegates from the A.S.P. to address conference on the subject of freedom of speech. A delegate moved that permission be granted, and this motion would in all probability have been carried had the Premier not interposed with a suggestion that the Socialists be invited to address the conference on another subject quite foreign to the request contained in the letter.

In view of the treatment recently meted out to the Socialists by the police and magistrates, and the gross discrimination shown between religious and Socialist speakers in favor of the former, we can quite understand why Mr. Holman did not want any discussion of the subject. The result of such a discussion would be a foregone conclusion, because the delegates, being for the most part representative workers, would be sure to have no sympathy with methods which trade unionists and labor men know only too well of old.

Under Mr. Holman's Government drastic regulations against street speaking were framed and put into force against Socialist speakers by the late Chief Secretary, Mr. Cann, and though his successor, Mr. Black, made vague promises of concessions in the direction of more fair treatment, the police continued to make arrests and break up Socialist meetings.

Not only was this done, but Mr. Black, in reply to a letter of protest, made matters worse by saying that Socialist speakers had been singled out for fine and imprisonment because they in their speeches made use of obscene and blasphemous language. This was so untrue that the Central Executive of the A.S.P. decided to lay the facts before the P.L.L. Conference, and thus, if possible, make the representatives of the workers aware of what was going on.

When the letter was read, and the request therein about to be granted, Mr. Holman, with his usual astuteness, assured conference that there was now no question of free speech that the delegates need bother about. Mr. Black was dealing with the matter, which was only a two-penny-halfpenny matter of administration. The matter should be left to Mr. Black, and the Socialist delegates invited to address conference on the future movements of the Labor and Socialist movements side by side.

The fact that two members of the Socialist Party have been jailed for fourteen

days by Mr. Black's police, and two others for three days and twenty-four hours respectively, and that six others have been summoned, some of whom have had to fight for several days in court to preserve their liberty, may be a twopenny-halfpenny affair to Mr. Holman, but it is a more serious affair to the men who have been punished, and to the labor movement. An injury to one is an injury to all, no matter if such injury be inflicted by a Labor Government.

It may suit Mr. Holman to treat the matter lightly and to brush it off the conference board with an assurance that it is being fixed up, but Mr. Black's letter, and the fact that in Melbourne the police are acting against Socialists in a similar manner to that adopted here, will be apt to lead conference delegates to suspect that there is more in the prosecution of Socialists than appears on the surface, and much more than Mr. Holman seems inclined to allow to come before the Labor Conference.

We hope the delegates of the P.L.L. will see that the matter of free speech is not shelved at the instance of the Ministry. We believe that they will do this, for we cannot doubt that a body which represents the labor movement of the State will forget the historical struggles of the past for freedom of speech, the right of a free press, and of public meeting. Such struggles have alone made it possible for conferences of Labor men to sit, and the very existence of trade unions and political combinations of workmen are based on the liberties won by them.

The Norton Griffiths Agreement.

Mr. Holman, Premier of N.S.W., submitted a statement to the P.L.L. Conference on Monday last which substantiates all that this paper has said of the Norton Griffiths scheme. When the agreement was first proposed we pointed out that it was a tacit admission that the Government depended on borrowed money for the carrying out of its proposals for the nationalisation of industries and the maintenance of such after nationalisation. It was pointed out that this involved merely a change of masters, a transfer from local ownership to ownership in Europe, to the money-lenders who find the money to finance the Government's schemes, and that such a transfer of ownership really made the State Government subject to the Capitalists of Europe. The series of cables which Mr. Holman now publishes prove that the Capitalists in Europe were able to bring the Government's schemes to a standstill by cutting off the supply of loan money, and further, through Norton Griffiths, were able to take the public works of the State out of the hands of the Government, or to throw its 20,000 workers out of employment. This being so, the real Government of the State or at least the control of its financial affairs is in the hands, not of Mr. Holman and his Ministers, but in those of their financial masters in Europe. In view of this it is curious that Mr. Holman, after showing how borrowing was impossible, says in his minute: "It is perfectly true that the credit of the State is better than that of Messrs. Norton Griffiths, but credit is only of value in helping the State to borrow money." We have to face a position where, without very special assistance, credit would be of no avail, whereas Messrs. Norton Griffiths are dealing with their own money, not with money they have to borrow." Now what really happened, as Mr. Holman said at the time, was that the State was out of credit and Messrs. Norton Griffiths were not. They had plenty of money behind them, and the State had none. The financiers were putting the financial screw on so that the State would be compelled to abdicate to some extent in favor of Norton Griffiths. It was essentially a matter of credit, the State now having credit only with one firm instead of several. It is the old story of trustification over again—the trustification of credit.

Sooner or later the P.L.L. and other Labor organisations will come to see that their objective, the nationalisation of industry, is impossible along Mr. Holman's lines. The Capitalists will simply refuse to finance such schemes, and by means of their financial power, bring them to nought. Moreover, the control of public works by a private firm will mean a radical alteration in management, with possibly, new conditions unpalatable to the workers employed. In that case, strikes and lockouts may occur, and both sides will appeal to the Government. When such appeal is made, who can doubt that the most powerful influence will lie with those who control the Treasury?

When you have read this paper hand it to a friend.

Eugenics and Warfare.

An interesting and enlightening (to us of the "lower classes") discussion under this heading has been going on for the last few weeks in the correspondence columns of the "Observer." As a study in social tendencies, some of the arguments are well worth the notice of Socialists.

The discussion was begun by a letter which, commenting on the disastrous effect on the race of the present war, by the annihilation of the physically fittest males, advocated three modes of avoiding the consequent deterioration. These modes were (1) national training; (2) eugenic marriage laws, "the unfit—that is, the physically, mentally, or morally defective—must not be allowed to be the fathers of the next generation;" (3) polygamy.

(It is interesting to note that only "fathers" are to be subjected to the physical-mental-moral test; also that we are not told whether one, two, or all three of these qualifications are to be exacted. Grammatically speaking, it would appear that only an Apollo Belvedere, who was also a Socrates and a Marcus Aurelius, could be allowed to propagate his species. Whether such a paragon would consent to be used as a kind of human stallion is not considered.)

The discussion that followed upon this letter as a text brought out many agreements and disagreements, and some very surprising "gaps" or blind spots in the eyes of the writers. For example, most correspondents agreed that the first "remedy"—national training, i.e., military training—was sound. As a matter of fact, physical exercise is a good thing for everyone—male and female alike—but it need not be military, and it need not be "training." Anyone who has studied the question knows that healthy, well-fed children derive more benefit from games, freely played in the open air, than from "drill." Drill is only required to remedy physical inherited or acquired defects. Round shoulders, e.g., are caused by malnutrition, by the system of education which involves bending over desks for hours daily, and by the lack of fresh air to expand and feed the lungs. The "eugenist's" cure is—physical training. The Socialist's cure is—plenty of food, light, air, and good conditions in and out of school—in a word, Socialism.

But one would imagine that even "Eugenists" would see that the physical condition of the mother is a more important factor than that of the father in securing a healthy, well-formed, well-born (in its best sense), and physically-fit child. How military training the father is going to counteract the effects on the unborn child of low wages, slum life, and the sordid and never-ending anxieties about daily bread that the great majority of the poorest mothers experience all their lives only a Eugenist can explain!

Our correspondent points out (truly enough) that women at present have not the "freedom of choice" that might give the best results, nor will have so long as they are not economically free—so long, that is, as they are dependent on their husbands. The working-woman's choice is really freer in this respect, as she is economically independent before marriage, and is thus not driven, like her wealthier sister, to adopt marriage as a means of escaping from economic dependence on a father or a brother, to dependence on a husband. But this correspondent's remedy, "by some scheme of national endowment, of motherhood to give every woman who desires it the fullest liberty to choose the best father for her child," is unfortunately quite easily ridiculed—and ridiculed—by "A Priest," who writes one of the most sensible letters in the whole correspondence, and points out the flaw in the whole argument. He asks, will the "free woman" only fall in love with those men who would be certified as eugenically fit? "Again, what kind of man makes the 'best' father? The Hercules, certified as 'sound of wind and limb,' or the intellectual genius (who may not resemble Hercules in the least); or he who is 'best' in the moral sense (that is, if morality is to be recognised at all); or the man who unites in his person all three 'bests'? ... What if a thousand 'free women' decide, in the exercise of their 'natural taste,' that some extremely popular soldier, or poet, or actor, or Statesman, is just the very man to be the 'best father' of their respective infants? ... May not the man indulge his 'natural taste' too? And what if it does not coincide with the woman's? Again, what is to happen to those who refuse to be bound by the laws enacted by a Eugenic Parliament? Eugenists have yet to agree upon a system, but there is another and weightier reason why we should not fall down and worship this fad. Eugenists violate their arguments by treating man as if he were a mere animal. They ignore, or else deny, the fact that he is a creature with a rational and immortal soul—so sums up 'A Priest'.

Now that is the whole point at issue between the Eugenists and their opponents. Eugenists are so enamoured of the methods and results of the stud farm and stockyard that they omit a factor that absolutely cuts the ground beneath their feet. They talk glibly of "the best"—but they never by any chance define this term. They demand legislation—when they have not even agreed

what they want to produce. As 'Lex' points out, they do not even know the laws of heredity. Why is Solomon's son an ass? How is it Shakespeare's father was a fool?

One writer—"A Registrar of Births and Deaths"—does strike a sound note, from the Socialist point of view, when he points out that Eugenists build their whole argument on heredity (of which they know little) and entirely ignore environment—of whose effects we know a great deal. "We do know, however," he says, "that the children of the very worst parentage, physically and morally, entering Barnardo's Homes and our splendid Poor Law Schools grow up in all respects equal to the respectable mechanic class. This result is a lesson in environment writ large."

It is amusing to find that while one half of the writers are demanding more babies and bigger families, the other half are denouncing the poor for obliging them! To the latter, the "Registrar" says, very sensibly, "there is, however, if it be advisable, one way to decrease the birth-rate among the poor—pay them better, educate, house, feed, clothe, and amuse them better, and they will follow the example of their 'betters' and have fewer children. It is noted the world over that the 'fitter' men and women are to propagate, the more resolutely they decline."

The reason is not far to seek. It takes either a very ignorant or a very selfish man or woman to go on bringing children into a world where they will have a miserable struggle for existence, and where, without having anything of their own worth fighting for, they will be urged and lectured and finally ordered out to give their wretched lives for "their" country. The workers are beginning—only beginning, it is true, but still beginning—to realise that a system which gives them all the kicks and very few of the halfpence is not worth perpetuating; is not worth the self-denial required to bring children up merely to perpetuate an unjust system. The women are beginning to realise that a mangled corpse or a crippled body is not sufficient reward for the pain and labor of bearing and nursing and rearing a son. When the women and the workers come to express in words their joint conclusions, they will probably say to their "betters," who are lecturing them for bringing too many children into the world, or for not bringing enough children into the world to satisfy the needs—Industrial or warlike—of these "betters": "You have had it all your own way for a long time. You have kept the best of everything to yourselves—of everything material, mental, and spiritual—and left us the worst. We do not ask you to change places; we will not make you our slaves as we have so long been yours; but we are no longer ignorant, and we are going to change this whole system. We are going to take a turn at managing the nation—of which we are the greatest part. And as we shall not allow any one to enjoy what he has not earned, there will be enough, and more than enough, for all. There will be no 'paupers' in our land—and no millionaires. And as for the private and intimate matters that you so coarsely and brutally thrust yourselves into, the personal relations between man and woman shall be determined by themselves alone. Their relations to the community are matters that concern the community; their relations to each other, their desire for children or their self-denial because of any physical trait they would not like, selfishly, to transmit—that is their own affair."

In the new social system it is not likely that the population will exceed the food supply, when so many will be freed from useless or parasitic employments, and enabled to devote themselves to productive labor. But if such a thing did seem likely the people themselves will, with their higher civic consciousness, face the problem and settle it as free and equal men and women, and not as the meek and lowly slaves of a body of faddists, itching to experiment on the "vile bodies" of the "poor." For there are, as the Eugenists conveniently ignore, mental, moral, and physical degenerates at both ends of the scale. Let them begin their vile experiments on those whose heredity is traceable in the pages of Burke or DeBrett, or, better still, the Almanack de Gotha. There is not much left to the workers that they can call their own, and there will be many and insidious attacks on their liberties in the near future, but the liberty of choice in mating is not one they will lightly part with. "Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom." Never was this vigilance more needed than now.

T. M. In the Glasgow "SOCIALIST".

The Annual State Conference of the Victorian Political Labor Council adopted the recommendation of the Executive that no persons should be admitted to membership of the Labor Party who were at the same time members of any other organisation which elects or supports the candidature of men to public offices. After passing the resolution, it dawned on the delegates that it would debar members of the Catholic Federation from belonging to the Labor Party, and they promptly did a crab-walk to get out of the difficulty.

Class Conflict.

Never in the course of history has there been an epoch in which the gulf dividing the rich and poor, the exploiters and the exploited, has been as wide as it is at the present day. If the poor are not poorer than they were formerly, the rich are richer. The increasing product of labor has all been appropriated by the nonproducing class. The exploited class is more distinctly marked off from the exploiting class than it has been hitherto. Yet, in spite of all that is said about the class struggle, its significance is but little understood and imperfectly recognised by the great mass of the workers. I shall endeavour to point out some of the difficulties with which Socialist propaganda has to deal.

In Australia capitalism has not yet been trusted to the same extent as it has been in the United States. Small capitalists have therefore hitherto been able to maintain much of their influence. Many of the wage earners still see some opening ahead which in their imagination may lead to their playing the part of capitalist in a small way some day. The rural worker, too, has not yet realised the trend of development which is gradually excluding him from the soil on which he works. These causes, which have their root in the stage of industrial development, keep many workers aloof from the working class movement. The great majority of adults are workers, but it is only, at the highest, one-third of the workers who are placed in circumstances which may render them class-conscious. The two-thirds have as yet no place in the industrial systems which made them mere units in the system. They are, or at least feel as if they were, individuals working out their own future within certain bounds. That is to say, they are small farmers, contractors, agents, retailers, etc. They have no strongly marked class interests, but allow themselves to drift where their environs take them. A wave of patriotism, a whisper of revolution, a cry for protection or freetrade, soon makes them forget that they have any interests as workers. It seems almost hopeless to rouse them to class-consciousness at the present time.

One would imagine that in order to obtain evidence of the class conflict one had only to go to our trade unions. But this is not so. I shall endeavour to show that at least our craft unionists are not, and never will be, class conscious. The sphere in which craft unionism has obtained its greatest success is the sphere of undeveloped industry, that is industry which has not yet been trustified, and in most cases is unsuited for trustification at the present time. The organised workers are found in the small establishments like the building trades, or in the fringe of independents on the outskirts of the trusts; on the railways, where skill and responsibility are not yet displaced by division of labor; in the mines, where strikebreakers cannot be shipped in; on the docks and other places, where they hold a strategic position. While the number of organised workers show an increase in these directions, it shows a decrease in others.

The place where craft-organisation has at present lost all influence is the modern industry, the trust with its scientific management and its division of labor. But while the worker here has become more powerless, he has at the same time become more class conscious. The trust breaks down the personal ties that formerly held together the employer and the employees. By placing all units of the trust on a uniform system of accounting which shows at a glance every month the minutest detail of every item of cost, the modern trust is going further to alienate classes than did the simple corporation when it displaced the individual employer. The trust "hires and fires" its employee with the precision of an automaton. Under this exact system of costs a man is measured like coal, iron, or kilowatts, and labor becomes literally what it has been by analogy, a commodity. A scientist may admire, but if one talks with the worker at his home, one hears grumbings of class struggle.

Therefore, the class conflict will only develop gradually with the system. Meanwhile, to-day class-conscious labor has no influence in practical organization or policy. It is the inert, anaemic two-thirds of workers who hold the key of the situation. They constitute the "public opinion"; their verdict settles all questions of controversy. The enervating effect of this popular verdict chloroforms the activities of all straight-out working-class parties. In face of these difficulties the question naturally arises whether the small class-conscious section of the community should ally itself with any of the compromising elements in order to gain at least some of its objects. In my opinion they should certainly not do so. It may be true that for a long time the class-conscious worker will be hopelessly in the minority. His representatives will have to face the dangers of influences

Pen Pricks.

By J. L.

The joy of comradeship helps now, and is an earnest of the coming greater joy of actual freedom.

If war is hell then what is Capitalism?

A Socialist is a man or woman who is beginning to understand the meaning of civilisation.

The best method of protesting against war is to build a strong Socialist Party.

Under Capitalism there are no complete men, but only 'heads' and 'hands.'

The only issue is shall the workers get what they earn, or shall they give it to the idlers. What do you think about it?

The house of the rich is built on the back of labor. If labor gets restless the house will fall.

If the men who work got all they made then the man who did no work would get nothing.

People who can not see how they are robbed can not see the way to escape robbery.

Poverty and wealth are both the results of exploitation.

The human race has not advanced very far along the path of civilisation when millions of men are fighting and slaughtering one another and do not know why.

Someone tells them to fight and they fight, that's all.

The paper on which these words are printed was made by the workers, the type used to form the words were fashioned by the worker. The printing press from whose embrace these sheets fall with lightning speed, was born of the brain and made by the skill and brawn of the worker, and as it is produced in the Capitalist system, it must pay toll at every stage of its production. Now how about that subscriber as a push along, to help keep the paper going.

Countless thousands of babies slave daily for a few miserable pence in the factories on this whirling planet of dividends and sweat.

Capitalist society is sick with many sores, but of all the phases of its disorder none offers such sure portents of dissolution as the official statistics of infantile disease and death.

For the workers Socialism 'is the only way.' It is for life, it is for health, it is for the little children, that we are Socialists.

Do not sneer at the man on the soap-box, he is probably preaching the popular texts of the day after to-morrow.

Socialism is a live working-class business proposition: an economic question affecting the life of the whole people.

We must organise and march quickly forward, fight the grand fight and win the glorious victory which means so much to the enslaved of the race.

from environs which are not working-class environs. But although he may have to satisfy himself by accepting what compromises he can wrest from the majority, he should never forget his ultimate aim. And as for the class-conscious worker, he should always make this question the standard of judgment in choosing his representative: Will he always relentlessly press the claims of the working class? If the man or party which claims to represent the working class is satisfied with compromise, it is time to look for something new.

H. CHRISTOPHERSON.

Free Speech.

Bluffing the P. L. L. Conference.

At the P. L. L. Conference on Monday last a letter was read from the Australasian Socialist Party, asking if delegates from that body would be permitted to address Conference on the subject of freedom of speech. The Conference seemed disposed to accede to the request when Mr. Holman interfered and said that "there was now no question of free speech that the Conference need bother about. Mr. Black, who was dealing with the matter, had arranged to go round with the police and fix certain spots in the city where speeches might be delivered without interference with the traffic. It was only a twopenny-halfpenny matter of administration. I am as much in favor of free speech as any man, but I would suggest that we inform the Socialists that the point at issue has been settled."

A delegate: "What about the men in jail?"

Mr. Holman: "This Conference cannot let them out of jail."

Mr. D. R. Hall (Attorney General): "There are no men in jail on that account."

Mr. Holman: "There is no need to take up the time of the Conference on this. If the Socialist delegates will approach us on mat-

Twentieth Century Martyrs. Labor Principles Abandoned.

W. M. Hughes, Federal Attorney-General, Condemns Holman's Financial Policy.

"I'm sick of fighting for the working class." "If the workers do not wake up shortly I'm quitting." "The first opportunity I get I am going to ride the backs of the toilers." "What is the use of agitating, a fellow only loses his job and no thanks are coming from those he has been trying to help." These and similar remarks we hear daily among our self-sacrificing brothers. It is time comrades 'took a tumble' to things as they are. The world is sick of martyrs who refuse to be martyred. If you want to be a martyr go right to it and play the game as it should be played, but for the sake of all that is free from hypocrisy, cease mouthing of your great sacrifice when you are making none. Many join our movement under the impression that they are offering their bodies on the sacrificial alters of democracy and after a few months they expect a heavenly halo as a reward for their noble self effacement. The working bullocks gaze with bovine eyes upon their efforts. The look slackens the stiffened spine of the martyr—no halo is offering—thus the remarks as aforementioned. By the burnt bowels of Bruno! the enormous bodily affliction endured by some of our fellow workers when selling a pamphlet or disturbing the sluggish serenity of a faithful Laborite must make Socrates feel like vomiting the hemlock or inducing the Lord to return earlier than expected to prove to an incredulous world that the cross business was a mere joke compared with being a live member of the Socialist Party. No, no my dear disappointed martyr your lamentations will avail you nought. Such might wring the withers of the old dames of a 'Dorcas' class or affect the heart of a member of the Mutual Back Scratching Association, but a real Socialist listens dry eyed if he listens at all. But there, when we come to think of it, we have all had a touch of the martyr inflammation in our career and why? Because we all, having been reared on the mental map of a Capitalist curriculum, have suffered more or less from the dope pumped into us. Stories of dying heroes telling, the 'I've done my duty' story, tales of men and women toiling, moiling and dying all for their country's sake, with never a thought for themselves, these were dished up daily. No wonder the martyr spirit crops up occasionally in our movement. Let us remember that we are in the militant army of the working-class because of our circumstance.

Capitalism has reached a point where thousands of toilers are driven to take a stand. Love of the struggle—interest in the fight keeps us in the vanguard. When we lose interest let us frankly state it but don't blame the working-class and tearfully declaim that we refused to be martyred.

GEE. BEE.

Cutting Drink Out.

"By one stroke of the pen, the Czar has abolished the sale of vodka in Russia, and a new and more vigorous Russia than ever before has sprung into being. In France the sale of absinthe has been prohibited, and the nation is the richer and stronger for it. Now the King of England sets an example to his people."—"S.M. Herald." The rulers are thus fairly unanimously of the opinion that drink is a curse to the worker. The masters will agree that it is quite an unnecessary article of slave diet resulting in a serious loss of surplus value. But if drink is cut out, and the worker cannot partake of the cup that cheers and makes him forget the class struggle, what then? A sobered proletariat may be more thoughtful and hence more dangerous to the ruling faction.

ters of mutual concern we will gladly welcome them. I suggest that we invite them to address Conference on the future development of the Socialist and Labor parties side by side."

A delegate: "One man has been in jail for speaking in the street, and he has been summoned again."

Mr. Holman: "I have taken steps in that matter."

The Premier's suggestion was then adopted.

On Tuesday, the day after Mr. Holman made his announcement, Socialist Clyde Marsh was prosecuted at the Central Police Court for speaking in the street, and was fined £1 with the alternative of seven days brutal treatment in Long Bay Jail on one charge, and 10s. or three days on another.

Socialists J. Quinton and A. Rees had also to appear at the Glebe Police on the same day on similar charges. Their cases were adjourned for a week when they will have to appear at the Redfern Court. The two cases have now lasted several weeks and are still unfinished.

So that while the Conference delegates are being soothed by Ministerial assurances working-class men are being persecuted and hunted down like the worst of criminals.

On Tuesday last, the N. S. Wales P. L. L. Conference dealt with the Norton Griffiths scheme, when an interesting discussion took place on a couple of motions censuring the State Government's financial policy in connection therewith. The majority accepted and endorsed the scheme as inevitable under the circumstances, but a considerable number recognised it as an abandonment of the Party's platform and principles. Amongst the minority was Mr. W. M. Hughes, Federal Attorney-General, who severely criticised the scheme and denounced it as a complete reversal of policy. This from Mr. Hughes is at once an admission that we Socialists have been right in our criticisms of the Norton Griffiths agreement and that the party can never attain its objective or realize its ideals along the lines upon which it is proceeding. In dealing with the matter Mr. Hughes said:

It was the duty of a Government, continued Mr. Hughes, to prop up by every legitimate means the finances of the country, and it was particularly the duty of a Labor Government to keep up employment. The position of New South Wales was common to the other States of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth had financed New South Wales just as it had financed other States. Mr. Holman himself about two years ago had thought it was most undesirable to accept the Norton Griffiths scheme, but he now accepted it, pleading that the situation was desperate and that the money was needed. He (Mr. Hughes) declared it was a step backward. How great that step was he did not think many of the delegates realised. However, even murder was justified under certain circumstances, when it had the sanction of the Church and was carried out in wholesale quantities. (Laughter). They had not come into existence as a Labor Party to call upon the capitalist in their hour of need, as they were supposed to be overthrowing him, and they would be recreant to their principles if they were not. The first time they got into trouble they cried, not to God, but to Baal.

They came into existence to extend the functions of the State, but they were not doing it. They were seeking to lift aloft people who had vowed to destroy them. They were going to give up their platform and their ideals for £1,000,000, or rather for the mere use of that sum for a period of five short months. For this money they would barter all they had struggled for for years. He could not and would not say that there was not a good reason for it, but if there was he had not heard of it. It was not the duty of a Labor Government to find work for the people, but it would not be right for the Government to turn its back on its principles when by any expedient it could have avoided doing so. The Premier had told them the State could not get money in London, but Norton Griffiths could get it. (Laughter). What was the State going to pay for it? To say that they were going to get it for 5 or 6 per cent was too great a strain on one's credulity altogether. There must be something more. They could not believe that the firm were such stupid capitalists. (Applause). The States had no war expenditure to bear, but the Commonwealth had, and where did they get the money?

Mr. Holman: Borrowed it from the capitalists like we did.

Mr. Hughes, continuing, said the Commonwealth got some of the money free of interest and on the rest of it had to pay very little interest. The Norton Griffiths scheme was the alternative to borrowing money in the open market. A Labor movement was never in favor of allowing capitalists to take the place of the State as employers of labor. He thought it was an evil precedent and the turning of their backs upon the right way. These times were no ordinary times, and he felt assured that everything Mr. Holman had done had been with a view to benefiting the country; but at the same time in this matter he thought Mr. Holman had done wrong.

ANTI-SOCIALISTS.

The following persons may generally be expected either to oppose the Socialist movement tooth and nail or else prove unfriendly to it:

The employers of labor.
The bankers, investors, and financiers.
The legal profession.
The old party politicians.
The capitalist controlled press.
The merchants, manufacturers, and business men.

The large taxpayers.
The frivolous, the ill-informed and cowardly.

All those whom Socialism will deprive of unjust wealth and power.

The revolutionary working class has quite an army of reactionaries to oppose the carrying out of its program.

—Cotton's Weekly.

A.S.P. News & Notes.

AUSTRALASIAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

Objective.—The social ownership with Democratic control of the means of Production, Distribution and Exchange.
Headquarters: 115 Goulburn St., Sydney.
LUKE JONES.
General Secretary.

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE.

The C. E. met on Saturday, April 3rd. Steps were taken to procure the release of G. C. Thompson now detained in Goodna Asylum. Free speech matters were attended to and a deputation was appointed to wait upon the P. L. L. conference now sitting in Sydney to raise the question if possible. Red week was further discussed. Again we appeal for articles suitable for sale at the forthcoming bazaar. Forward all such to the undersigned.

Next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 17, at 3 p.m.

LUKE JONES, Gen. Sec.

BRISBANE.

A largely attended meeting was held in our hall on Sunday night, when Comrade Sergaef gave his lecture on "Socialists and War." A considerable amount of discussion followed, and a large number of questions were answered. The methods of education should be so changed that the individual thought and action should be the means of collective action. The falling power of the capitalist class is caused through the greed and development of the capitalists and industries. The working-class movement is a movement to cope with the ever-oppressing power of the capitalist class. The working class is the fighting class of Society. When the capitalists want to further their ends they get the working class to fight for them. Capitalism has a great influence over the workers, and are hypnotized to do things against their own interests. Capitalists do not bring about war unless the forces compel them to. The Socialists' aim in regard to the present war was (in most cases) to assist the capitalist class to attain their end and object. Greed was the force that brought the war to a head. It is ridiculous to say that England is going to fight for civilization, and think that Germany is fighting for barbarism! Socialists (so-called) are misleading the people in Europe, and this shows that the individual must think and act for himself, and not let "Moses" lead them into the wilderness. As Socialists we must look closely to the education of the future, and the working class should get to work and bring the education off as fast as possible. The fault of the working class is that they are their own enemy.

Comrade Henry started the ball rolling in connection with the unemployed. A large attentive meeting was held in Market Square on Wednesday night; some good dope was expressed, and the slaves were that interested that the rain could not shift them. The resolution carried was to organize themselves, and a procession is to proceed through the street to Barnes. "Minister for Works" to see what can be done.

Yours for the day,

E. FRIDLIN, Sec.

MELBOURNE NOTES.

The spirit of revolt still permeates Melbourne's little band of militants and propaganda continues steadily along the lines of no compromise—"Socialism or nothing"—the message of freedom being limited by the number of messengers available, a defect comrades are attempting to remedy by the inauguration of a class devoted to study and speaking, which made its advent last Tuesday with a good attendance marking the event.

Our Collingwood, Yarra bank and Sunday evening propaganda fixtures were exceptionally well attended during this last week. Comrade Jeffries and the writer pitted their voices against the roar of traffic and "clang-clang" of trams on the corner of Peel and Smith streets, Collingwood, on Friday evening. It was pointed out to quite a number of his Majesty's objects the futility and stupidity of going 16,000 miles to Europe, looking for a people who are enemies in name only, whilst the direct enemies—parsons, plutocrats and Labor politicians—are gulling, starving and doping the people into a spineless servility to the whims and caprice of capitalism. If the working class want to fight, let them fight here and now—fight for freedom and not for slavery. There is only one war the workers should fight in, and that is the class war. There being only one flag, they should march under the Red Flag—the flag of revolt, freedom and humanity. These truths brought forth an emanation of brassy from the booze bamboozled brains of assinine bipeds, who were squelched by the rest of the audience, showing that the speakers' logic had hit home to the majority. Although Minister Jensen had announced

through the Saturday evening's "Herald" he would intern as prisoners of war all those who made unpatriotic and seditious statements and speeches, Comrade Jeffries and the writer spoke on the Yarra bank on Sunday and gave utterance to language bristling with condemnation of the Empire bunkum, but so far naught has happened for this outrage on British liberty—telling the truth, instead of keeping quiet.

Sunday evening the lecture by G. Hill, of the Chicago I.W.W., was well patronised, the financial gain being good. In his "Message from Mexico," Hill was exceptionally good in dealing with the historical aspect of the attempt of the Mexican slaves to overthrow peonage. Some of his statements were rash and ill balanced, especially when he poked fun at Marxian economics and frantically waving his arms condemned education as a factor in freeing the workers. Political action he jettisoned as a tactic and showed in doing so, by his utterances, that he did not know either the value, the meaning or necessity of Parliamentary action. The Indians of Mexico were fighting for primitive communism and to this end were smashing railways and everything that was modern. Hill, at one stage of his lecture, said the Mexican revolution was the only successful revolution in history, and later stated the peon was determined to die or get his freedom, so that each statement is a direct contradiction of the other.

When we reflect upon the fate of the communes characteristic of the early Christian movement, and those of the Reformation, one cannot help hazarding that the Mexican peon cannot fly in the face of evolution without disaster to their ideals. But Hill's tirade of tommy rot culminated by his assertion of the utility of force as the main tactic for the freedom of wage workers; but he never told us where the working class are to get the money to buy rifles, maxim guns and ammunition—the essentials of modern physical force. Parliament controls the police, the soldiery and the guns. Therefore, let the working class control Parliament, and so control the physical force of the boss.

Members are requested to attend the euchre party to be held on April the 12th, as this is for party funds.

Yours for working class freedom,

H. SPENCER WOOD,
Secretary.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

Last Sunday evening in Market-St., once again we saw the police at their dirty work. Comrade Marsh was hauled off to the lock-up and a bail of £20 was fixed for the mild offence of speaking in the street. Comrades Rees and Rudolph also had their names taken again. This morning (Tuesday) Marsh was fined 10s, or 3 days on one charge, and 21s., or 7 days on another. He refused time to pay, but the Magistrate forced a term of 7 days in which to pay the fine upon him. The cases against Quinton and Rees are still proceeding. This morning, at Glebe Court, the Magistrate adjourned their cases for another week, stating that he was waiting to see what decision the P. L. L. Conference arrived at. Jock Wilson comes up again on Wednesday.

Sunday's Domain meeting lapsed on account of the inclement weather.

In the Hall on Sunday evening, Mr. Montecore, gave an address on his personal relations with Francisco Ferrer. It was a very enjoyable and interesting address.

Next Sunday night Comrade Rasmussen will lecture on "Phrenology," with charts. We have to announce that Mrs. Macdonald will start a Sunday school for the children at 3 o'clock at the Hall. Will all comrades and friends send their children along, and help Mrs. Macdonald in any other way they can?

Comrades and friends who wish to partake of a night's enjoyment, should come along to the Social and Dance held at the Hall, 369 Pitt-St., on Friday, April 9th. Tickets 6d. each.

FREE SPEECH FUND.

| Receipts. | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Income brought ford. | £8 13s. 4d. |
| Anonymous | 10s. |
| Anonymous | 10s. |
| Total Income | £9 13s. 4d. |
| Expenditure. | |
| Expenditure brought ford. | £7 18s. 11d. |
| Meals and Fares | 6s. |
| Total Expend. | £8 14s. 11d. |
| Balance in Hand | £1 8s. 14d. |
| J. Quinton, Sec. | |

DOMAIN FIXTURES 2.30.

Chair:—Mrs. Lorimer.

Speakers:—J. Dwyer, Mrs. Paul, J. Kilburn, and J. R. Wilson.

Auburn meeting Friday:—Mrs. Macdonald, and G. Slade.
Market-street 7 p.m. as usual

The worker who is not in the Socialist Party is a man who is blind to his own interest and careless of his future welfare. Socialism proposes that every person shall enjoy all that he or she produces. Do you stand for that? If not, examine yourself and try to figure out what you really are.

NEWTOWN.

Newtown Branch.—Rooms 11 Enmore-Rd., Newtown. Propaganda meetings: Friday evenings, Johnston-St., Leichhardt. Saturday and Sunday evenings, Newtown Bridge.

PROPAGANDA FIXTURES.

(Meetings Commence 7.30 p.m.)

Thursday night, Johnston-St., Leichhardt.
Chair: F. Hancock, Speakers: J. Roche, C. Jackson.

Auburn Friday night: P. O'Connell.
Saturday night: Newtown Bridge.

Chair: C. Jackson, Speakers: J. Roche, J. Kilburn.

Sunday night: Newtown Bridge.

Chair: W. Page, Speakers: C. Jackson, J. Kilburn, Mrs. Paul.

Ray Everitt, Secy.

International Socialist Club.

Next General Meeting of above will be held on Sunday, April 11th. To commence at 11 a.m.

H. DIERKS.

AUBURN BRANCH.

The above branch meets every Monday night in the Class Room, School of Arts, Queen-street, at 7.45 p.m.

Propaganda meetings are held every Friday evening at "Bundock," corner Auburn-road and Queen-street, at 8.15 p.m.

Those who desire to join should give their names to the branch Secretary.

J. J. KEGG.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,

In last week's paper it is stated in a report of my address at the Party's Hall on 28th, inst., that, "It was a pity that Mrs. Macdonald's voice was barely audible at the end of the Hall."

This is a misleading statement and would imply that I spoke in a whisper, as the Hall is not a large one. All speakers have the same difficulty to contend against in the Hall—the noise made by passing trams. If a lecturer did not speak through this continuous interruption he or she would not get through a lecture in less than two hours. Even speakers like Scott Bennett are "barely audible at the end of the Hall" when the trams thunder past.

E. J. MACDONALD.

Books and Pamphlets on Sale.

- Title.
- The Positive Outcomes of Philosophy, also in same volume Letters on Logic and the Nature of Human Brain Work (Dietsgen) 4s.
- Landmarks of Scientific Socialism (Anti-Duehring). Contains the most important portions of the larger work from which Socialism, Utopian and Scientific was taken (Engels) 4s.
- The Physical Basis of Mind and Morals. Shows the origin of mind and the relation of economics to morals (Fitch) 4s.
- Essays on the Materialistic Conception of History (Labriola) 4s.
- Socialism and Philosophy. In the form of familiar letters (Labriola) 4s.
- An Introduction to Sociology. A new and useful work for beginners, tracing the development of this new science, with estimates of the work of Comte, Spencer, Ward, Small, and other Sociologists (Lewis) 4s.
- Critique of Political Economy. Explains the general theory of surplus value and discusses the currency question (Marx) 4s.
- The Poverty of Philosophy. A reply to Proudhon (Marx) 4s.
- Looking Forward: A Treatise on the Status Woman and the Origin and Growth of the Family and the State (Rapaport) 4s.
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- Woman and Socialism, the classic work on this subject, revised, enlarged, and newly translated (Bebel) 6s.
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- Capital, Vol. II, The Process of Circulation of Capital (Marx) 8s.
- Capital, Vol. III, The Process of Capitalist Production as a Whole (Marx) 8s.
- Introduction to Socialism. Excellent for beginners, 64 pages (Richardson) 3d.
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Red Week

First Week in May

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